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National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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Idaho Potato Stocks Down 17 Percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on January 1 totaled 73.5 million cwt, 15.0 million cwt less than on hand January 1, 2010. This is the lowest January 1 stocks level since 1989. Disappearance, at 40.9 million cwt is down from last year's 44.0 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 4.00 million cwt, up from last year's 3.90 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 69.5 million cwt, were down from the 84.6 million cwt stored on January 1, 2010. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 5.75 million cwt of 2010 crop raw potatoes during December, down 5.3 percent from December 2009. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 26.8 million cwt of 2010 crop raw potatoes to January 1, down 8.2 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 22.1 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 4.69 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 205 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2011, down 13 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 58 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, three percentage points below January 1, 2010. Potato disappearance, at 147 million cwt, was 2 percent below January 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 14.7 million cwt, was down 11 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 77.2 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 2 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 10.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 24 percent from last year.

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